

qualified HMO, an individual authorized to act for the entity (the applicant) must complete an application form provided by HCFA.

(2) The authorized individual must describe thoroughly how the entity meets, or will meet, the requirements for qualified HMOs described in the PHS Act and in subparts B and C of this part, this subpart D, and 417.168 and 417.169 of subpart F.

(c) *Collection of an application fee.* In accordance with the requirements of 31 U.S.C. 9701, Fees and charges for Government services and things of value, HCFA determines the amount of the application fee that must be submitted with each type of application.

(1) The fee is reasonably related to the Federal government's cost of qualifying an entity and may vary based on the type of application.

(2) Each type of application has one set fee rather than a charge based on the specific cost of each determination. (For example, each Federally qualified HMO applicant seeking Federal qualification of one of its regional components as an HMO is charged the same amount, unless the amount of the fee has been changed under paragraph (f) of this section.)

(d) *Application fee amounts.* The application fee amounts for applications completed on or after July 13, 1987 are as follows:

(1) \$18,400 for an entity seeking qualification as an HMO or qualification of a regional component of an HMO.

If, in the case of an HMO seeking qualification of a regional component, HCFA determines that there is no need for a site visit, \$8,000 will be returned to the applicant.

(2) \$6,900 for an HMO seeking expansion of its service area.

(3) \$3,100 for a CMP seeking qualification as an HMO.

(e) *Refund of an application fee.* HCFA refunds an application fee only if the entity withdraws its application within 10 working days after receipt by HCFA. Application fees are not returned in any other circumstance, even if qualification or certification is denied.

(f) *Procedure for changing the amount of an application fee.* If HCFA determines that a change in the amount of a fee is appropriate, HCFA issues a no-

tice of proposed rulemaking in the FEDERAL REGISTER to announce the proposed new amount.

(g) *New application after denial.* An entity may not submit another application under this subpart for the same type of determination for four full months after the date of the notice in which HCFA denied the application.

(h) *Disclosure of application information under the Freedom of Information Act.* An applicant submitting material that he or she believes is protected from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552, the Freedom of Information Act, or because of exceptions provided in 45 CFR part 5, the Department's regulations providing exceptions to disclosure, should label the material "privileged" and include an explanation of the applicability of an exception described in 45 CFR part 5.

[52 FR 22321, June 11, 1987. Redesignated at 52 FR 36746, Sept. 30, 1987, as amended at 58 FR 38077, July 15, 1993]

**§417.144 Evaluation and determination procedures.**

(a) *Basis for evaluation and determination.* (1) HCFA evaluates an application for Federal qualification on the basis of information contained in the application itself and any additional information that HCFA obtains through on-site visits, public hearings, and any other appropriate procedures.

(2) If the application is incomplete, HCFA notifies the entity and allows 60 days from the date of the notice for the entity to furnish the missing information.

(3) After evaluating all relevant information, HCFA determines whether the entity meets the applicable requirements of §§417.142 and 417.143.

(b) *Notice of determination.* HCFA notifies each entity that applies for qualification under this subpart of its determination and the basis for the determination. The determination may be granting of qualification, intent to deny, or denial.

(c) *Intent to deny.* (1) If HCFA finds that the entity does not appear to meet the requirements for qualification and appears to be able to meet those requirements within 60 days, HCFA gives the entity notice of intent to deny

qualification and a summary of the basis for this preliminary finding.

(2) Within 60 days from the date of the notice, the entity may respond in writing to the issues or other matters that were the basis for HCFA's preliminary finding, and may revise its application to remedy any defects identified by HCFA.

(d) *Denial and reconsideration of denial.* (1) If HCFA denies an application for qualification under this subpart, HCFA gives the entity written notice of the denial and an opportunity to request reconsideration of that determination.

(2) A request for reconsideration must—

(i) Be submitted in writing, within 60 days following the date of the notice of denial;

(ii) Be addressed to the HCFA officer or employee who denied the application; and

(iii) Set forth the grounds upon which the entity requests reconsideration, specifying the material issues of fact and of law upon which the entity relies.

(3) HCFA bases its reconsideration upon the record compiled during the qualification review proceedings, materials submitted in support of the request for reconsideration, and other relevant materials available to HCFA.

(4) HCFA gives the entity written notice of the reconsidered determination and the basis for the determination.

(e) *Information on qualified HMOs*—(1) *FEDERAL REGISTER notices.* In quarterly *FEDERAL REGISTER* notices, HCFA gives the names, addresses, and service areas of newly qualified HMOs and describes the expanded service areas of other qualified HMOs.

(2) *Listings.* A cumulative list of qualified HMOs is available from the following office, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday: Office of Managed Care, room 4360, Cohen Building, 400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201.

[59 FR 49837, Sept. 30, 1994]

## Subpart E—Inclusion of Qualified Health Maintenance Organizations in Employee Health Benefits Plans

SOURCE: 45 FR 72517, Oct. 31, 1980, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 52 FR 36746, Sept. 30, 1987.

### § 417.150 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, unless the context indicates otherwise—

*Agreement* means a collective bargaining agreement.

*Bargaining representative* means an individual or entity designated or selected, under any applicable Federal, State, or local law, or public entity collective bargaining agreement, to represent employees in collective bargaining, or any other employee representative designated or selected under any law.

*Carrier* means a voluntary association, corporation, partnership, or other organization that is engaged in providing, paying for, or reimbursing all or part of the cost of health benefits under group insurance policies or contracts, medical or hospital service agreements, enrollment or subscription contracts, or similar group arrangements, in consideration of premiums or other periodic charges payable to the carrier.

*Collective bargaining agreement* means an agreement entered into between an employing entity and the bargaining representative of its employees.

*Contract* means an employer-employee or public entity-employee contract, or a contract for health benefits.

*Designee* means any person or entity authorized to act on behalf of an employing entity or a group of employing entities to offer the option of enrollment in a qualified health maintenance organization to their eligible employees.

*Eligible employee* means an employee who meets the employer's requirements for participation in the health benefits plan.

*Employee* means any individual employed by an employer or public entity on a full-time or part-time basis.